

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY 28th MARCH 2013

Present: Councillors: M Gaffney (Chair), J Soni, L Tasker, V Shepherd, E Thornley, M Willoughby, L Hewer, J Smith, A Foster, B Thomas & C Pratt

In attendance: Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders, Cllr D Wise & Cllr J Appleton

164. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Ward – Work Commitments (arrival 8.50pm)

Cllr L Smith – Holiday

Cllr C Worsh – Work Commitments

Cllr A Crump

Cllr J Ellard

165. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr B Thomas	Personal Interest Reason	Town Clerk Report Item 2 – Tollgate Road Lease and Confidential Item 2 - Tollgate Road Lease Property abutting Tollgate Road Playing Field
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Cllr V Shepherd	Personal Interest Reason	Town Clerk Report Item 2 – Tollgate Road Lease and Confidential Item 2 - Tollgate Road Lease Family members attend St James Primary School
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166. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs H Wankling, Broad Lane, Coventry – Head Teacher St James Primary School
Spoke regarding the Tollgate Road Lease and why St James Primary School requires a fenced area for exclusive use. The school needs this facility as it has a duty to provide a safe environment for its pupils and for the school to deliver the curriculum relating to outdoor learning. Due to the forced expansion of the school by WCC, the playground area has been diminished. The school has received overwhelming support from parents who want to see this school have a safe outdoor learning space which is on a par with other schools in Southam and seeks the support of both Southam Town Council and WCC in achieving this.

Mr V Dillon – 23 Merestone Close, Southam – Member of the PTA at St James Primary School

Spoke regarding the Tollgate Road Lease stating that the PTA support the activities of the 166 pupils who attend the school, that the PTA fully support the representation made by the Head Teacher and reiterated the need for the pupils to have a safe environment in order for outdoor learning activities to be fulfilled and pupils learning to be enhanced. A substantial public play area will still be fully accessible and Merestone Park is just around the corner.

Mrs P Bodi11, 2 Lime Road, Southam

Spoke regarding the Tollgate Road Lease stating that the park is there for everyone to use, what happens after school and during school holidays

Mr T Cribbett, 26 Tollgate Road, Southam

Spoke regarding the Tollgate Road Lease stating that many pupils who attend the school do not live on the Tollgate Road estate; where are children who live on the estate

supposed to play and kick a football about, Merestone Park is no good. Also had concerns about the fence; who is responsible for the fencing?

Mr S Batchelder, 16 Tollgate Road, Southam

Spoke about the Tollgate Road Lease, stating that he lived right next to the playing field and that although he is opposed to the fencing, can appreciate the needs of the school. He would like to see a compromise that the school has exclusive use during school time and for after school activities and at all other times the space is left open for the community to use. I am sure a workable solution can be reached.

Dr L Hawkins – 20 Pine Tree Crescent, Southam

Spoke regarding the Tollgate Road Lease, stating that she was very disappointed about the proposed fence, that Southam is lacking green space with more being lost to the Library development. Merestone Park is unsuitable and objects to the lack of consultation. Southam Town Council has colluded in a conspiracy to keep residents in the dark, that dog fouling and litter is an enforcement issue and WCC have no formal records of any injuries, she believes that a reasonable compromise can be reached in that the space should be open to the public outside of school hours.

Mrs D Smith, 20 Springs Crescent, Southam

Spoke regarding the Play Area Warning Signs for Mayfield and Park Lane Play Areas asking when the signs will be installed, complained about an overhanging hedge and the poor condition of the footway along Daventry Road.

Mr Baker-Heyes, 10 Drovers Way, Southam

Spoke about the Tollgate Road Lease asking the council to expand on why there would be extra costs associated with grass cutting if the school took a fenced off portion and why in the council's view is it unworkable and that injuries and dog fouling should be taken into account even if no formal reports have been received.

167. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

i) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th February 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor subject to the following amendment:

That minute 151.1 should read WCC

ii) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 14th March be deferred to the April Meeting

168. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:

That payment of accounts dated March 2013, totalling £11,998.58 be authorised.

169. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

i) Council considered the applications for planning permission detailed on the schedule dated March 2013 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council.

ii) Planning Application decisions dated March 2013

Noted

iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Noted

170. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

171.1 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Mrs D Smith

Was advised the following:

- That the Council were currently awaiting the final costing for the play area signage and a map showing the correct location of where the signage is to be installed
- The overhanging hedge and poor condition of footway along Daventry Road would be reported to WCC Highways Department

171.2 TOLLGATE ROAD LEASE

Mrs H Wankling

Mr V Dillon

Mrs P Bodill

Mr T Cribitt

Mr S Batchelder

Dr L Hawkins

Mr Baker-Heyes

Were advised the following:

- That the Town Council is very pleased to see so many people attending the meeting, that it recognises the need to safeguard children, it can see both points of view and hoped that a satisfactory compromise could be reached

The Town Clerk advised the following:

- That the Town Council has currently resolved to sign a lease with WCC for the play area part of the site; this lease has yet to be signed
- The Section 25 notice served on the Town Council runs out on the 30th April 2013, however, on behalf of the Town Council the Town Council Solicitor requested an extension which has been granted and therefore the Section 25 now runs out on the 30th August 2013
- WCC called a meeting with two reps from Town Council, WCC, St James School and the Public to discuss the situation, this meeting was due to take place on 12th April 2013, however WCC sent the Town Clerk and email advising the following: "Further to my previous email, and following additional correspondence from other local residents, we have now decided to cancel the meeting on 12th April 2013 and will be in touch with you in due course regarding an alternative date for a meeting in the coming weeks"

The Town Council has been led to believe that WCC will call a Public Meeting, after the WCC Elections towards the end of May 2013

- The Town Council is now in receipt of advice from the Barrister and this advice will be considered by Council in the confidential part of the meeting as the Town Clerk has been advised that should this advice be considered in Public it could prejudice the Town Council's case

172. TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR 2013/2014

In preparation for the Mayormaking meeting in May 2013, Members were requested to confirm who the next Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be for 2013/2014.

At the September 2012 meeting the Town Council resolved the following

62.13 TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

RESOLVED:

i) That Cllr J Ward be appointed as Deputy Mayor and that he will be proposed for Town Mayor in May 2013

ii) Cllr J Smith indicated that he would be willing to stand as Deputy Mayor in May 2013

Members were advised that due to personal commitments Cllr J Smith can no longer stand as Deputy Mayor

Noted

173. MEETINGS/TRAINING/EVENTS

- Saturday 27th April 2013 – Being a Good Councillor and Clerk Induction Day – Lapworth Village Hall

174 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

ENV MEETING DATES

Thursday 25th April 2013

Thursday 11th April 2013

Thursday 9th May 2013 (Annual Town Meeting & Mayormaking)

Thursday 23rd May 2013

Thursday 27th June 2013

Thursday 13th June 2013

Thursday 25th July 2013

Thursday 11th July 2013

August Recess

Thursday 26th September 2013

Thursday 12th September 2013

Thursday 24th October 2013

Thursday 10th October 2013

Thursday 28th November 2013

Thursday 14th November 2013

December Recess

Noted

175. CORRESPONDENCE

175.1 CCTV REPORT – FEBRUARY 2013

Noted

175.2 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – GRANT THANK YOU

RESOLVED:

That when service is moved to the temporary location the Town Council will advertise the service in the Newsletter and on the Website

175.3 SOUTHAM CARNIVAL COMMITTEE – GRANT THANK YOU

Noted

175.4 SOUTHAM COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC CLOSURE

RESOLVED:

To advertise the situation in the newsletter

175.5 SOUTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – FEBRUARY MINUTES

Noted

175.6 SOUTHAM & BISHOPS ITCHINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH – GRANT THANK YOU

Noted

176. REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY ON 14TH MARCH 2013

176.1 BATTLE OF SOUTHAM

Southam First and the Sealed Knot gave a presentation on their proposals for the Battle of Southam in August 2013. They advised that no vehicles would be on the Recreation Ground, there will be a maximum of 3 horses but they will go no faster than a walk, explained how the ground charges operate, that Southam First will be insuring the event and that they have cover of 5 million, that prior to using the Recreation Ground, a condition survey in cooperation with the Town Clerk would be carried out and if the weather has deemed the Recreation Ground unusable then a smaller event would take place on Market Hill

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council authorises the use of the Park Lane Recreation Ground subject to a condition survey being carried out in cooperation with the Town Clerk

176.2 REFURBISHMENT OF THE TOWN CENTRE

Katrina Pedlar and Phil Mitton (WCC) advised that they want to set up a working group to progress the refurbishment of the Town Centre that will utilise the remaining Tesco S106 monies. They acknowledged that they had been sent a list of issues but they wanted to start afresh.

RESOLVED:

i) That a site meeting is arranged with Officers from WCC (Phil Mitton and Graham Stanley) in order to walk around the Town Centre within the S106 designated area in order to establish the issues

ii) That Cllr Gaffney, Cllr J Smith, Cllr Thomas and the Town Clerk represent the Council at this meeting

176.3 DIVERSION/EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY – SM 20 SOUTHAM

Members considered the correspondence from SDC. The Town Clerk advised that as a result of the response due date, this item will need to be actioned based on the recommendation, as the matter cannot wait for a resolution

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council is in agreement with the proposals

176.4 PLAY AREA WARNING SIGNS FOR THE MAYFIELD ROAD PLAY AREA AND THE PARK LANE RECREATION GROUND

WCC confirmed that they are happy for 'Play Area' warning signs to be installed at the Mayfield Road Play Area and the Park Lane Recreation Ground. WCC advised that in addition to the monies that have already been paid, the cost of providing and installing 4 signs in total will be approximately £512.00. Members considered the proposed locations of the signage

RESOLVED:

i) The the Town Clerk writes to Southam @ Play seeking a contribution towards the cost

ii) That the proposed location of the Play Area sign in Wattons Lane is moved to Park lane

iii) That the proposed location of the Play Area signs in Mayfield Road needs reassessing as they appear to be in the wrong location

iv) That WCC send the Town Council amended proposed signage location maps

176.5 QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- 1. The Town Council requires a fuller explanation regarding the 'Bedroom Tax'**

Cllr Appleton advised that the new system affects 90 households in the CV47 post code

That there is an appeals system

That SDC has some discretion on how it is applied

2. The Town Council wants to know what Cllr Appleton, Cllr Ellard, Cllr Crump & Cllr Wise opinions are regarding the proposed future lease of the Tollgate Road Play Area

Cllr Wise stated that he supported the action taken by Southam Town Council

Cllr Appleton stated that he hopes that a solution can be found that satisfies both the school and the public and that a Public Meeting will take place in May

Cllr Crump's written response was tabled

177. DRAFT – MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STEWARDS OF THE GRANGE HALL HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2013

177.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Ellard

177.2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2012, having been previously circulated, be confirmed as a true record of proceedings

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

177.3 MAINTENANCE SERVICE

TP arranges for a condition survey to be carried out and to contact DC to arrange a suitable time.

177.4 GRANGE HALL CEILING FANS

DC advised that the ceiling fans have been cleaned and that one fan needs a new motor. DC advised that these fans were installed as part of the upgraded heating system. In order for them to be maintained properly a scaffolding tower is required which is very costly. Stewards were asked to consider whether it is fair on the Management Committee to have to bear this cost

RESOLVED:

That a report goes to SDC Cabinet regarding a 'Green Assessment' being carried out on the Grange Hall

177.5 COLD WATER TANKS

DC confirmed that the work had been carried

177.6 GRASS CUTTING AT THE GRANGE HALL

TP confirmed that The Grange Hall will be having the same grass cutting regime as Bancroft Gardens and that the list of agreed works for the Grange Hall site (as a result of a meeting with Matt Austin) would be carried out before the end of March 2013

177.7 CASH FLOW

The Stewards considered the Cash Flow Report. Stewards would like to see a more simplified report to show how the Grange Hall is performing against budget

RESOLVED:

Cllr M Gaffney to discuss the matter with the Town Council Financial Officer

177.8 STOCK CHECK

RESOLVED:

That the Grange Hall Administrator contacts Cllr Wise ASAP

177.9 GRANGE HALL FLOOR

DC advised that as instructed Mr R McCutcheon was the appointed contractor to refurbish the hall floor. Following completion a split appeared in the floor, which Mr McCutcheon repaired, then a second spilt appeared. The Management Committee were concerned, doubting whether the job had been done properly. KAD (the company who had done the floor previously) were asked to inspect the floor and give their professional opinion. They advised that although the sanding had been done to an excellent standard, the seals are too thin, tack holes for badminton lines were unheard of and the lines themselves had not been bedded in sufficiently

RESOLVED:

i) To accept the quotation from KAD Flooring of £696.51 + VAT to give the hall floor an extra coat of seal but to ascertain if anything can be done to improve the badminton lines and the cost

ii) That the Grange Hall Management Committee writes to Mr McCutcheon advising that SDC and STC are of the opinion that he has not fulfilled the terms of the contract and that they are considering taking the matter further

177.10 NEXT MEETING

June 2013

178. INFORMATION FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr D Wise advised the following:

- o That the majority of his time is spent on licensing issues and regulating street trading
- o Would like to receive any feedback regarding the new Street lighting regime

Cllr J Appleton advised the following:

- o That WCC was in purdah prior to the elections
- o Awaiting details about HS2 Community Grant but it will not be a large pot of money

179. BUSINESS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE MAYOR SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

None

180. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING

It was moved and

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public be excluded from the meeting because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

Cllr J Ward arrived 8.50pm

181. STAFF SALARIES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

RESOLVED:

To authorise payments of staff salaries dated March 2013

182. TOLLGATE ROAD LEASE

Members considered the Barristers advice and it was agreed that the resolution could be rescinded but the Town Clerk advised that this would need to be done in accordance with Standing Orders.

RESOLVED:

Southam Town Council accepts the legal advice but reserves its position to allow further negotiations with Warwickshire County Council to take place'

Meeting closed 9.20pm

APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
13/00371/FUL	Tim Harding	12 Sycamore Grove, Southam CV47 1EY	Proposed erection of single storey rear extension	1st April 2013	No representations
13/00152/FUL	Mrs Gillian Smith	52 Coventry Street, Southam CV47 0EP	front - like for like with double glazed units, same colour and design of windows and doors	1st April 2013	No representations
13/00401/FUL	Mr Russel King	19 Tomwell Close, Southam CV47 0JS	Proposed erection of single storey rear extension	29th March 2013	No representations